

This response was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on *New approaches to biofuels* between December 2009 and March 2010. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

World Trade Institute

QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

Question 1

ANSWER:

A greater use of biofuels can have a positive effect on enhancing energy security, however the environmental impact of biofuels production should be carefully studied and observed.

Question 3

ANSWER:

The main source of information is the publications of IEA and research institutions.

Question 4

ANSWER:

Certain types of discrimination between conventional and bio fuels used to promote development of the latter, can constitute a violation of country's international obligations under the law of World Trade Organization. One has to be careful implementing such policies as subsidies and trade restrictions.

Question 6

ANSWER:

In order to improve energy security, a country needs to diversify its energy supply, including diversification of feedstock and methods of biofuels production.

Question 24

ANSWER:

The trade related issues could be covered in more detail. Trade measures can play a significant role to promote R&D, greater use of biofuels, ensuring environmental and economic benefit and at the same time prohibiting land use changes and environmental harm. There is a range of trade measures that are of direct relevance. To name a few, it is the following: norms on subsidies, WTO agreement on agriculture, technology transfer and IP rights, liberalization of environmental goods and services etc.